GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2352
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2008
WAITING LIST OF TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS
Rathod Shri Harisingh Nasaru

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of waiting list of telephone connections of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for Landline, Mobile, WLL connections in rural areas of the country including Maharashtra, State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to provide telephone connections expeditiously to the waiting applicants in the rural areas of the country including Maharashtra?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY(SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) Sir, details of waiting list of telephone connections of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for Land Line WLL & Mobile connections in Rural areas of the country including Maharashtra telecom circle are given in Annexure-I. However, generation of waiting list is a continuous process.

In MTNL, all types of telephone connections (landline, Mobile & WLL) are being provided on demand subject to feasibility. There is no waiting list.

(b) The steps taken by BSNL to provide telephone connections to the waiting applicants in rural areas are given below:

(A) Fixed Telephones

i) The fixed telephones connections are provided either on Wire line or WLL.In view of the techno-commercial reasons, the WLL network is being expanded to provide coverage in rural areas. However, in some cases underground cable is also laid to make wire line connection feasible.

ii) Out of 2642 SDCAs in the country, 2589 SDCAs have been covered with WLL service as on 31.10.2008. Balance SDCAs are being covered progressively subject to techno-commercially viability.

In Maharashtra telecom circle, all the 304 SDCAs have been covered.

iii) Order for 19.2 lakh lines of WLL equipment has been placed and its roll out is in process. On commissioning of these equipments, the telephone connections are likely to be provided on demand. Out of this 2.27 lakh lines equipment is ordered for Maharashtra Circle.

(B) Mobile Telephones

i) Roll out of 23 Million lines of GSM equipment is in progress which will substantially increase the availability of telephones in rural areas. Out of this 37 lakh lines equipment is ordered for Maharashtra circle.

ii) Tender has been invited for 93 Million lines of GSM equipment which shall be procured over the next three years and BSNL plans to cover villages having population more than 1000 by mobile services progressively in next three years.